



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Wildlife Enhancement Activity - Wildlife Friendly Haying Management (EHM45)

Providing Wildlife Friendly Haying Management:

Haying intensity and timing, especially during the primary nesting and fawning season, can cause tremendous mortality losses to both ground nesting birds and wildlife.

Benefits:

Targeted conservation measures are implemented to grassland wildlife habitat on pastureland, hayland and rangeland to provide a variety of habitat conditions in patches to maximize wildlife use. These measures include employment of timed haying to avoid periods when upland wildlife are nesting or fawning, idling paddocks or pastures and idling hayland during the nesting or fawning period, leaving a residual forage height conducive to wildlife nesting and fawning for the following year, prescribed burning, interseeding of native legumes and forbs or conversion of exotic hayland plantings to a mixture of species which meets the life history needs of the targeted grassland wildlife species.

Criteria for Wildlife Friendly Haying Management:

A. The producer *will implement and maintain at least two of the following* management actions (1-3) specifically for improving or protecting grassland functions for the targeted wildlife species.

1. Time haying before and/or after the primary nesting or fawning seasons (May 8 - August 1) that will be conducted on at least 1/3 of the hayed acres each year for the targeted species.
2. At least 1/3 of the hayed acres will be idled each year. Idled acres will not be disturbed during the primary nesting or fawning seasons (May 8 - August 1) for the targeted species. Idle strips or blocks must be at least 30 feet wide.
3. Maintain residual forage heights at a minimum of 8 inches on all hayed acres for wildlife.



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B. For all haying that will be conducted during the nesting/fawning season the producer will be required to implement *option #1 and at least one of the other two* to flush wildlife from hay fields during the mowing operation:

- 1) A flush bar attachment will be required on the mower.
- 2) All mowing will be done during daylight hours
- 3) Haying pattern will be either:
 - a) Begin on one end of the field and work back and forth across the field, or
 - b) Begin in the center of the field and work outward.

Practices appropriate for this enhancement include the following: Forage Harvest Management (Code 511), Prescribed Burning (Code 338), Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (Code 643), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645), Pasture and Hayland Planting (Code 512).

Operation and Maintenance:

Hayland will be inspected for presence of invasive or noxious plants which may compromise wildlife use. Pest species must be controlled when encountered. The producer will follow a prescribed burn plan or other plans developed for the purpose of improving and protecting the grasslands for wildlife.

References:

Frost, W E., E. L. Smith, and P. R. Ogden. 1994. Elk habitat use within a rest-rotation grazing system. *Rangelands* 14:93-96

Churchwell, R. T., 2005. The influence of patch-burn management on the nesting ecology of grassland birds at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, Oklahoma. Dissertation, Oklahoma State University

Larkin, J.L. T.G. Barnes, M. DePoy-Smith, and D.S. Maehr. 2001. A Comparison of Avian Communities Occupying Native and Exotic Grasslands in Kentucky: A Preliminary Study. *Proc. North American Prairie Conf.* 17:201-205.

Barnes, T.G., L.A. Madison, J.D. Sole, M.J. Lacki. 1995. An assessment of tall fescue dominated fields habitat quality for northern bobwhite. *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 23:231-237.

Benson, P. C. 1979. Land Use and Wildlife USDA-FS-R4 report. 32 pages.

Noah G. Perlut, Allan M. Strong, Therese M. Donovan and Neil J. Buckley. 2006. Grassland Songbirds in a Dynamic Management Landscape: Behavioral Responses and Management Strategies. *Ecological Applications*, 16(6):2235–22474



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CSP Enhancement Certification Sheet

Wildlife Friendly Haying Management (EHM45)

Participant Acknowledgement Statement:

I agree to apply this enhancement under the terms and conditions of my CSP contract and understand the requirements of the activity.

Compensation will be on a per acre basis as described in my CSP contact.

Fields	Habitat Area (sq ft)	Management Activities

I agree that the following information will be provided to NRCS upon request:

1. Written documentation of the activity performed.
2. Copies of dated receipts for equipment or services purchased.

I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the application of these activities.

Accepted by: _____ **Date:** _____